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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [MOPS](#) [MNUC](#) [KN](#) [IR](#) [IT](#) [KICC](#)

SUBJECT: U/S BOLTON DISCUSSES ARTICLE 98, PSI, IRAN AND DPRK WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS

Classified By: DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION EMIL SKODON FOR REASONS 1.5(B)(D)

¶1. (C) SUMMARY. U/S Bolton discussed Article 98, PSI, North Korea and Iran with senior Italian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President's office and Prime Minister Berlusconi's office during meetings on October 2 in Rome. The Italians agreed to review language recently negotiated with Colombia on Article 98 scope of coverage that might break the impasse between the US and EU, and offered to raise both PSI and Iran's nuclear weapons program with Russian officials, including President Putin, during November meetings in Rome and Moscow. They also agreed to continue to use Italy's influence to press Iran to comply with the IAEA and sign and implement the Additional Protocol. On North Korea, the Italians see a role for the EU once the key parties reach a general understanding. Italy is willing to work constructively with the US during the remainder of its EU Presidency to help move North Korea toward the negotiating table. END SUMMARY.

NORTH KOREA

¶2. (C) U/S Bolton discussed North Korea's weapons program in his meetings with MFA Director General Giancarlo Aragona, MFA U/S Margherita Boniver, Berlusconi's Diplomatic Advisor Giovanni Castellaneta and President Ciampi's Diplomatic Advisor Antonio Puri Purini. Aragona asked U/S Bolton to clarify the impact of the recent Presidential Determination that allows the release of the last tranche of FY03 funding for KEDO, adding that the EU is focused primarily on KEDO because of its financial commitment to the program. Italy favors suspending the KEDO program rather than a more lasting interruption or termination, according to Aragona. U/S Bolton explained that the \$3.72 million allotment was limited to administrative expenses only and that the proposed FY04 budget includes no KEDO funding. The Presidential Determination, which in effect allows the program to continue for another 12 months, reflected the strong preference expressed by South Korea and Japan to suspend (rather than terminate) the program in order to avoid disputes with contractors, he said.

¶3. (C) On six-party talks with DPRK, the EU is willing to play a role in keeping North Korea at the negotiating table, Aragona said, but it would be premature to get more involved until the key parties reach a general understanding. The Chinese reportedly told Japanese officials that they don't expect more six-party talks in 2003, something they had not conveyed during September meetings with President Bush, U/S Bolton said. However, the Chinese are not likely to let the next round of talks slip too far, he added. The IAEA will continue to have a big role but the five nuclear states should also be involved. The USG is looking carefully at what would meet North Korean concerns other than a statement on assurances by the President, and is working with South Korea and Japan on a verification regime, he said. Aragona offered the EU's help, should that be of use, during the remaining three months of the Italian Presidency.

¶4. (C) In a later meeting, U/S Boniver agreed that the EU role would remain limited until there was some movement by North Korea. She noted that the Chinese take their role as facilitators very seriously, in part because of the threat of refugee flows from North Korea into China. One explanation for the 150,000 troops North Korea recently moved into the border region is to prevent refugees from crossing into China, U/S Bolton replied. The USG is focusing on interdiction efforts to reduce the flow of hard currency to North Korea and reduce the DPRK's ability to further strengthen its nuclear weapons program.

PSI

¶5. (C) Aragona noted that Italy opposes naming countries of proliferation concern, which he said was likely to be a sensitive issue at the October 9/10 meeting in London on the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). Apart from potential political problems, naming countries would limit PSI's impact, he said. U/S Bolton countered that naming countries will bolster PSI, although the same impact may result from conducting actual interdictions that will demonstrate how PSI will work. A key point will be how to

associate other participating governments with the core 11 now involved in PSI, he said. Some countries may not

understand that they can subscribe to the principles of PSI and help with interdictions without formally joining the initiative. U/S Bolton noted that Putin and President Bush briefly discussed PSI at Camp David and that Russia is still forming a position. Aragona said he would mention PSI during his upcoming trip to Moscow.

IRAN

16. (C) The EU position on Iran's nuclear weapons program, and nonproliferation in general, has toughened in recent months, Aragona said, although there is still concern about upsetting the political balance and strengthening hardliners. He asked U/S Bolton for an update on Iran and the IAEA, particularly since Italy is now on the IAEA Board of Governors (BOG). Iran continues to obfuscate its intentions, U/S Bolton said, and the prospect of UNSC involvement has not changed Iran's behavior. The USG wants the matter to be referred to the UNSC by the end of 2003 to make it clear that the international community takes this seriously; Russia and China, however, continue to resist. Iran's noncompliance undermines the IAEA and the NPT, he added. Aragona said EU Ministers had a good discussion on Iran and the tripartite initiative at their September 29 meeting in Brussels. He agreed that an international response will be necessary if Iran fails to respond by the October 31 deadline. If Germany, the UK and France decide to send another letter urging Khatami to comply, they should send it soon, he and U/S Bolton agreed, so that Iran has to respond well before the end of October or the November BOG meeting. USG willingness to take some positive action if Iran signs the Additional Protocol would help in the BOG debate, Aragona added. U/S Bolton stressed that the USG standard is the Evian Leaders' Statement, which provides that Iran must sign and also immediately begin implementing the Additional Protocol without conditions.

17. (C) Berlusconi's Diplomatic Advisor Giovanni Castellaneta told U/S Bolton in a later meeting that the Prime Minister may be able to raise Iran's actions with Putin while he is in Rome November 5-6 to sign two Global Partnership agreements. He also offered to use Italy's relations with Iran to press them to comply. U/S Bolton noted that Putin and President Bush had discussed Iran during their recent Camp David meetings. Putin had repeated that Russia does not want Iran to have nuclear weapons, and said Russia would not supply fuel until the question of Iran's nuclear weapons program is resolved. It would increase the pressure on Iran considerably if Russia would acknowledge publicly Iran's efforts to build a nuclear weapons program, he emphasized.

ARTICLE 98

18. (C) Colombia and the USG recently negotiated Article 98 language that might provide a way around the US-EU impasse on scope of coverage, U/S Bolton reported at all of his meetings with Italian officials. He pointed out that 30 of the 68 countries that have now entered into Article 98 agreements with the USG are also party to the Rome Treaty creating the International Criminal Court (ICC), a fact that bolsters the argument that there can be more than one legal interpretation of Article 98. Aragona agreed to study the Colombia agreement's language but said that he has seen no shift in the EU position on Article 98's scope of coverage. Europe has a completely different philosophy about the ICC, he explained, which has considerable public and parliamentary support. In later meetings, Castellaneta and President Ciampi's Diplomatic Advisor Puri Purini also doubted that there would be much change in the EU position. Castellaneta added that Italy is open to finding an acceptable solution. Puri Purini, who was less familiar with the issue, stressed that Italy's efforts to work constructively with the US had to remain within the framework of maintaining a consistent EU position.

EU, THE IGC AND CIAMPI'S WASHINGTON VISIT

19. (C) Puri Purini told U/S Bolton that a major theme of President Ciampi's November trip to Washington and New York will be European unification and its impact on the transatlantic partnership. Strengthening EU institutions and integration will make the EU a better partner in solving global problems, he said. The idea that a stronger EU is needed to create a new balance of power is obsolete; the western world balances on two pillars, he stated. Puri

Purini also raised the EU Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) (which opened in Rome on October 4). Noting that "failure is not an option", he told U/S Bolton that Italy is working hard to have a draft of the Constitutional Treaty approved by the end of 2003.

110. (U) U/S Bolton has cleared this message.
SEMBLER

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